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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/381,385 | 02/01/2000 | PHILIP C. ASHMAN | BWT1USA | 3888 |

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| EXAMINER |
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PATTERSON, MARC A

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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1772

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

16

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/381,385 | Applicant(s) ASHMAN ET AL | |
| | Examiner Marc A. Patterson | Art Unit 1772 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,12,15-21 and 23-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,6,12,15-21 and 23-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

1. The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 5 – 6, 12, 15 – 21 and 23 – 40 as being unpatentable over Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 4,927,677) in view of Branch (U.K. Patent No. 2295617), of record on page 2 of the previous Action, is withdrawn.

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 5 – 6, 12, 15 – 21 and 23 – 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 4,927,677) in view of Branch (U.K. Patent No. 2295617) and Gibbons et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,222).

With regard to Claims 1, 6, 15, 24 – 29, 32, 34 – 36, 38 and 40, Kasai disclose a method for storing a flavored good (food; column 1, lines 41 – 42) comprising the step of providing a laminated material (composite material; column 4, lines 22 – 27) having a core barrier layer sandwiched between an outer layer and at least one further layer (column 4, lines 22 – 27; Figure 2), the further layer being formed from a non – polar thermoplastic resin filled with an inorganic filler comprising talc (polyolefin comprising polypropylene; column 4, lines 55 – 67), therefore a platelet filler; Kasai disclose a barrier layer having a thickness of less than 25 microns (column 1, lines 10 – 13) and

Art Unit: 1772

storing a flavored good in a container formed from the laminate material (food; column 1, lines 41 – 42); the barrier layer is a vinylidene chloride copolymer (column 4, lines 19 – 27) the further layer therefore extending between the flavored good and the core barrier layer; Yamada et al therefore also disclose a laminate material having the laminate layer structure and a container formed from the laminate; Kasai do not disclose a platelet – filled barrier layer, and therefore disclose a non – platelet filled barrier layer; Kasai does not disclose components other than resin for the barrier layer (column 4, lines 22 – 27) and polyolefin and talc for the further layer (column 4, lines 32 – 37) and therefore discloses a further layer consisting of a non – polar resin and talc and a barrier layer consisting essentially of resin; the resin is vapor impermeable non – polyolefin (copolymer of vinylidene chloride and acrylic ester; column 4, lines 22 – 27); with regard to the claimed aspect of the container reducing absorption of flavoring, Kasai does not disclose absorption of flavoring, and therefore discloses reduced absorption of flavoring; because the laminate is made into a container the layer also container provides a stiffness which allows the laminate to have a relatively thin thickness. However, the claimed aspects of the talc filled layer reducing absorption and providing stiffness are directed to intended use of the layer, which are given little patentable weight. Kasai fails to disclose a barrier layer comprising nylon and talc which is a high purity talc having a CIE whiteness of at least 40, an aspect ratio of at least 5 and an average aspect ratio from 16 to 30.

Gibbons et al teach the interchangeability of a vinylidene chloride copolymer and nylon as a barrier layer (polyamide barrier layer; column 7, lines 49 – 57) for the purpose of obtaining a container which provides a barrier to flavor oil (column 7, lines 58 – 60).

Art Unit: 1772

One of ordinary skill in the art would therefore have recognized the advantage of providing for the nylon of Gibbons et al in Kasai, which comprises a barrier layer, depending on the desired oil barrier of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a barrier layer comprising nylon in Kasai in order to obtain a barrier to flavor oil as taught by Gibbons et al.

Branch teaches the use of a talc having a CIE whiteness of at least 40, an aspect ratio of at least 5 and an average aspect ratio of from 16 to 30 (page 5, second paragraph; page 6, third paragraph; Abstract) for the purpose of obtaining a container which provides a good oxygen barrier (page 3, third paragraph) and a talc which is a high purity talc (purer grades of talc, therefore talc of high purity, is preferred; page 5, third paragraph) for the purpose of obtaining talc which has a high degree of whiteness without using a pigment (page 5, third paragraph). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the advantage of providing for the high purity talc having a CIE whiteness of at least 40, and an aspect ratio of at least 5 and an average aspect ratio of from 16 to 30 of Branch in Kasai, which is a container having an oxygen barrier, depending on the desired oxygen barrier and whiteness of the end product.

It therefore would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to have provided for a talc having a CIE whiteness index of at least 40, which includes 45, an aspect ratio of at least 5 and an average aspect ratio of from 16 to 30 in Kasai in order to obtain a container which provides a good oxygen barrier and whiteness without the use of a pigment as taught by Branch.

Art Unit: 1772

Kasai also fails to disclose a further layer filled with 5 to 15% talc by weight. However, Kasai discloses a further layer filled with 25% talc by weight (column 4, lines 59 – 63) and teaches the selection of the amount of talc depending on the desired thermal resistance (column 3, lines 9 – 17). Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized the utility of varying the amount of talc to obtain the desired thermal resistance. Therefore, the thermal resistance would be readily determined by through routine optimization of the amount of talc by one having ordinary skill in the art depending on the desired use of the end product as taught by Kasai.

It therefore would be obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to vary the amount of talc in order to obtain the desired thermal resistance, since the thermal resistance would be readily determined through routine optimization by one having ordinary skill in the art depending on the desired end result as shown by Kasai.

With regard to Claims 5, 12, 17 and 23, the further layer disclosed by Kasai is spaced from the inner, and therefore internal, surface of the laminated material by an additional layer of non – polar thermoplastic material filled by a platelet filler (blended polypropylene film ‘4’; column 4, lines 55 – 58; Figure 6).

With regard to Claim 16, the further layer disclosed by Kasai is adjacent the barrier layer and is adhered thereto by a tie layer (column 6, lines 6 – 8; Figure 2).

With regard to Claims 18 – 19, 30 – 31 and 33, the thickness of the further layer disclosed by Kasai is 50 microns (column 5, lines 13 – 19).

With regard to Claims 20 – 21, 37 and 39, Kasai discloses the blending of polypropylene with a polyethylenes or other polyolefins to obtain a layer that is heat

Art Unit: 1772

sealable (column 6, lines 56 – 60) and therefore discloses a further layer comprising high density polyethylene and linear medium density polyethylene.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

4. Applicant's arguments regarding the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 5 – 6, 12, 15 – 21 and 23 – 40 as being unpatentable over Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 4,927,677) in view of Branch (U.K. Patent No. 2295617), of record in the previous Action, have been considered and have been found to be persuasive. The rejections are therefore withdrawn. The new 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 1, 5 – 6, 12, 15 – 21 and 23 – 40 as being unpatentable over Kasai (U.S. Patent No. 4,927,677) in view of Branch (U.K. Patent No. 2295617) and Gibbons et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,888,222) above is directed to amended Claims 1, 5 – 6, 12, 15 – 21 and 23 – 40.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc A Patterson whose telephone number is 571-272-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30 - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon can be reached on 571-272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1772

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Marc Patterson 10/31/05
Marc A. Patterson, PhD.
Examiner
Art Unit 1772